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Churchill died in 1895. But before he ceased to be a political force, the Tory and Unionist party was coming under the domination of Mr. Chamberlain, and was entering on the era which came to an end with the complete and utter rout of the party at the general election in the early days of 1906.

Lord Randolph Churchill's place in English political history is not to be measured by the few months in which he was Secretary of State for India or the still shorter period in which he was Chancellor of the Exchequer and leader of the House of Commons. In any political history covering the last half of Queen Victoria's reign he must have a prominent place by reason of the enormous influence which he exercised over the Tory party in Parliament and in the constituencies in the years which preceded and in those which immediately followed the Reform Acts of 1884-1885. How Lord Randolph Churchill came to exercise this great influence, what he aimed at as regards shaping the policy of the Tory party, and also as regards legislation, is all detailed in Mr. Winston Churchill's biography; and the career of Lord Randolph Churchill is followed with a detachment that is indeed remarkable in the case of a man who is following out the career of his father. Perhaps this detachment is due to the fact that Mr. Winston Churchill was never associated with his father in the House of Commons; that he was too young to be in political life at all during the few years in which his father was the outstanding figure among the Tories and the Unionists in the House of Commons, and the most popular leader of the Tory party in all the great urban centres of England which at that time were giving their adherence to the Tory and Unionist party.

Whatever the reason may be, the detachment with which Mr. Churchill has written these volumes is as remarkable as the style in which they are written. There are eleven hundred pages, and there is not a page that could be spared. The volumes are much more than a history of the life and times of Lord Randolph Churchill. They form the best history extant of Toryism from Beaconsfield to Salisbury and of Unionism for almost the whole period that the Unionism of 1886 survived. Moreover the history covers many phases of English life from Lord Randolph Churchill's days at Eton and Oxford to the end of Queen Victoria's reign—phases of political, official, and social life in Ireland as well as in England which do not always receive due attention in English political memoirs or political history.

EDWARD PORRITT.

*A History of Our Own Times from the Diamond Jubilee, 1897, to the Accession of King Edward VII.* Vols. IV. and V. By JUSTIN MCCARTHY. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers. 1905. Pp. vii, 320; v, 303.)

As an easy and superficial record of the happenings of the last years of the reign of Queen Victoria, these two new volumes of Justin

McCarthy's *History of Our Own Times* may find a place with American readers. They gather up in readable form that very recent history which, while tolerably fresh in one's memory, is often exceedingly difficult to verify. It is essentially the history of the newspaper files of the years from 1897 to 1901; but these are difficult of access, awkward to handle, and inconvenient to refer to because unindexed. These volumes supply the place of the newspaper files, and must be regarded and criticized rather as the work of a reporter or a journalist than as that of a historian.

There is no evidence of research, no pretense at scholarly writing or verification by means of references in this history. This might be unobjectionable if Mr. McCarthy had kept himself closely to narrating the course of events. But he is nothing if not partizan, and readers are asked to accept not only the facts of recent history, but also the somewhat crude judgments of the historian as to what ought to have been the course of affairs. They are informed in a light and airy manner just how the governments of Great Britain and the great powers of Europe ought to have behaved in such crises as the Boxer trouble or the Cretan insurrection, and how all ensuing difficulties and entanglements would have been avoided had only Mr. McCarthy been appointed adviser-general on these critical occasions. "The policy which the European Powers ought to have pursued", writes McCarthy (IV. 39) of the Cretan question of 1897, "was to declare directly and positively that if Crete really desired by the voices of her Christian populations to be made part of the kingdom of Greece, and if Greece desired the union, the Greek race must have its will . . . Thus the whole Greek question might have been settled without any further effusion of blood instead of remaining for settlement as it does to this very day."

Although these volumes may at times be handy books of reference, they must not be depended upon for fullness or accuracy. Mr. McCarthy is always cordial in his allusions to the United States. Yet in the chapter devoted to the Boxer trouble and the integrity of China, he nowhere mentions Mr. Hay, or gives any credit to him and the American government for the great part he took, first in getting into communication with the legations, and secondly in preserving China from what at one time seemed the inevitable fate of partition among the powers. Several other curious lacks of acquaintance with current American history might be cited. In the account of the war with Spain, Mr. McCarthy speaks (IV. 205) of the "speedy destruction" of "the war array of Spain in the harbors of Havana", leaving his readers to gather the exact meaning of this phrase. He does not mention the victory of Admiral Dewey, nor give any reason for the cession of the Philippines to the United States. He concludes his account of the war by saying (*ibid.*): "Cuba and the Philippine Islands therefore became part of the dominion of the United States . . . , and it need hardly be said that the Cuban population enjoyed from the first the immense advantage of having been made a part of the great Republic."

A large part of both volumes is taken up with the "mainly about people" chat so familiar to readers of McCarthy's newspaper and magazine contributions. Even these sections of the work, where the author ought to be most at home, are frequently lacking in accuracy or completeness. In enumerating the deaths in 1897, he gives a sketch of the life of Henry George, and adds: "He was more than once urged by his followers to put himself forward as a candidate for public office, to which his own inclinations would never have led him" (IV. 225); but not a word is said of his candidature for the mayoralty of New York nor of the tragic circumstance that his death occurred within five days of the election in which many of his followers believed that he had at least a fighting chance.

At the best, as for example in the accounts of Parliamentary sessions and of the course of affairs in Ireland, the history in these volumes is good partizan journalism, readable, superficially accurate, and accessible. Unfortunately it is not uniformly at its best, and at its worst it is very poor journalism and lacks all these recommendations. There is an index; but there is no chronology, and dates are used so sparingly that one may read the whole story of Queen Victoria's death without discovering, except by referring to the previous chapter, in what year of the new century she died.

A. G. PORRITT.

*Russia and its Crisis.* By PAUL MILYOUKOV. [Crane Lectures, University of Chicago, 1903.] (Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1905. Pp. xiii, 589.)

It is difficult to know how to describe in a few words the unusual kind of work which is here offered under this title. One might suggest that it seems to be a study in the correlation of institutional history with what, for lack of a better term, may be called political ideology. The scope is certainly very comprehensive, and one can quite agree with the statement in the preface that the book is "the result of long years of study, devoted to the explanation of the Russian present by the Russian past". Professor Milyoukov takes as the premise of the discussion a general formula, to the effect that institutional development, in order to be stable, ought never to be divorced from popular sanction; or, to quote the words of the text, "a fact", meaning thereby an institution, "in order to grow into a tradition, must become an idea" (p. 160). This formula Professor Milyoukov applies to the whole course of Russian history, both political and religious; and he explains the present strained relations between government and society by tracing the divergence of Church and State from their "real tradition". As an interpretation of the contemporary crisis in Russia, it is certainly very suggestive. As an elucidation of the Liberal theory of this crisis, in all its historical bearings, there is nothing in English more complete.

In regard to the merits of the conclusion which Professor Milyoukov reaches, there is, of course, much room for difference of opinion. To